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SOURCE Zhurnal Mikrobiologii, Epidemiologii, i Immunobiologii, No 7, pp 120-122USSR CONFERENCE ON TICK ENCEPHALITIS AND RELATED DISEASES

M. Buslayev

The Ministry of Health RSFSR and the Institute of Virology imeni D. I. Ivanovskiy, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, together with the Tomsk Oblast Department of Health, the Tomsk Scientific Research Institute of Vaccines and Serums, and the Tomsk Medical Institute of the Ministry of Health USSR, conducted a conference on scientific and practical questions of tick encephalitis and related diseases. This conference was held 8-10 February 1954. Twenty-five reports were presented at the conference and more than 30 addresses were given by scientists and practical workers engaged in the control of tick encephalitis. Participants at the meeting represented 24 oblasts (comprising krais and cities) of the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East.

M. D. Shampanov, Chief of the Main Sanitary-Antiepidemic Administration, Ministry of Health USSR, stated at the conference that the number of oblasts and krais of the RSFSR where incidence of tick encephalitis has been recorded was twice as high in 1952-1953 as in 1948. It reached 32 during the 1952-1953 period as compared with 16 during the 1948 period. Shampanov further stated that an increased incidence of tick encephalitis was noted in the Kemerovo, Tomsk, Novosibirsk, and Sverdlovsk oblasts, where two thirds of all cases recorded in the RSFSR had occurred. He emphasized that the statistics were still incomplete, because medical workers in the extensive network of therapeutic and prophylactic institutions lacked adequate knowledge of the diagnostic and clinical aspects of this type of disease. He pointed out the necessity of subjecting to further study the methods for rapid laboratory diagnosis of tick encephalitis and of developing new vaccines, serums, chemotherapeutic agents, and antibiotics for the prophylaxis and therapy of this type of encephalitis. In conclusion, Shampanov called attention to the necessity of investigating the conditions under which the infections arise. He pointed out the significance of the industrial and agricultural development of territories in which

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natural focuses exist, and stressed the necessity of preventing infections with tick encephalitis in forest regions being developed in accordance with the directives given by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the expansion of agriculture, timber production, and the initial exploitation of virgin land. In saying this, Sharpanov emphasized that solution of the problems involved will be possible only if the development of measures for the control of encephalitis and related diseases is done not only by the personnel of local scientific institutions, but also by the large corps of workers attached to the sanitary-antiepidemic and therapeutic-prophylactic institutions.

The following reports given by members of the staff of the Institute of Virology were of interest to those who attended the conference: "The Contemporary Theory of Tick Spring-Summer Encephalitis" by Ye. N. Levkovich, "The Virological and Serological Characteristics of Tick Encephalitis in Western Siberia" by Ye. S. Sarmanova and O. Ye. Rzhakhova, "On the Nature of the So-Called Two-Wave Milk Fever and Its Connections With the Tick-Transmitted OGL (Omsk Hemorrhagic Fever), Tick (Spring-Summer) Encephalitis, and Scotch Tick Encephalitis of Sheep" by M. P. Chumakov, A. P. Belyayeva, and S. G. Drozdova, "Characteristics of the Strains of the Virus Causing Two-Wave Milk Fever in the Moscow Oblast" by S. G. Drozdov, "A Characteristic Two-Wave Hemorrhagic Fever Caused by a Virus" by A. A. Avakyan, A. D. Lebedeva, Yu. S. Kleyn, I. G. Proshin, and P. A. Chernomorskaya, and "Cultivation of Viruses in Tumors as a Method of Laboratory Diagnosis" by A. I. Ivanenko.

Reports given by scientists from Leningrad, Tomsk, Novosibirsk, Omsk, and Sverdlovsk formed an important contribution to knowledge of the pathogenesis and clinical and virological aspects of tick encephalitis and similar diseases. These reports included "The Clinical Aspects, Differential Diagnosis, and Therapy of Tick Encephalitis" by A. N. Shapoval, Colonel of the Medical Service (Chair of Nerve Diseases, Military Medical Academy imeni S. M. Kirov), "Characteristics of the Acute Stage of Tick Encephalitis According to Data of the Clinic of Infectious Diseases, Tomsk Medical Institute" by I. A. Minkevich, "The Clinical Aspects, Course, and Therapy of Tick Encephalitis" by N. V. Shubin (Tomsk), "Data on the Diagnosis of Tick Encephalitis and of Other Forms of Meningo-Encephalitis" by M. K. Tyushnyakova (Tomsk), "Data Characterizing the Focuses of Tick Encephalitis in the Omsk Oblast" by T. N. Zakorkina, "Clinical Characteristics of Cases of Tick Encephalitis According to Observations Made at the Kemerovo Oblast Hospital" by U. I. Malkhovakaya, "The Clinical Characteristics of Tick Encephalitis in the Sverdlovsk Oblast in Postwar Years" by D. G. Merer, V. R. Ovechkina, and S. S. Magazanik, "The Clinical Characteristics of the Late Stages of Tick Encephalitis in Eastern Siberia" by Ye. I. Mel'nikova, and "New Focuses of OGL (Omsk Hemorrhagic Fever): Interrelationships of the Virus of OGL with the Virus of Tick Encephalitis" by A. V. Gagarina.

A report by V. M. Popov entitled "The Ecology of Ixodes Persulcatus Ticks Under the Conditions of the Tayga Zone of Western Siberia" which was given at the conference represented a significant contribution to the knowledge of the vectors of tick encephalitis. Closely related to Popov's report was another report on parasites by M. S. Davydova entitled "A Focus of Tick Encephalitis in the Krasnoyarsk Kray With Haemophysalis Concinna Koch as the Principal Vector."

In a number of communications, the cooperation of scientists with locally active practical workers was demonstrated. An example of this cooperation is the work on the extermination of ticks carried out by A. I. Menko according to a method developed at the Institute of Virology. Other examples of work carried out on a cooperative basis have been reported in the following papers: "Experience Acquired in the Study of Measures for the Extermination of Ticks at Focuses of Tick Encephalitis in the Kemerovo

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Oblast" by N. N. Gorchakovskaya, I. V. Tarasevich, S. P. Shilova, and Ye. O Chigirik, and "Testing in the Kuybyshev Oblast of a Method for the Extermination of Naturally Occurring Ixodes persulcatus Ticks" by N. N. Gorchakovskaya, Yu. I. Gadalin, N. L. Gershkovich, A. B. Levit, and A. L. Kolesnikov.

A useful supplement to the work reported in these papers was furnished by work which was in the same field, but had been carried out independently of the Institute of Virology. This included "Experience in Work on the Prevention of Tick Encephalitis in Children's Health Establishments" by A. R. Yaviy (Tomsk), and "The Control of Ticks Under the Conditions of the Tomsk Oblast" by A. A. Shilova.

Outstanding from the standpoint of creativeness and practical significance were the following reports devoted to an epidemiological analysis of the incidence of tick encephalitis: "The Regional Epidemiology of Tick Encephalitis and Measures for Its Control" by S. N. Karpov (Tomsk) and "The Epidemiological Characteristics of Tick Encephalitis in the Kemerovo Oblast" by N. F. Chumak.

In summarizing the results of the conference, Prof M. P. Chumakov noted that a unity of science and practice had been demonstrated in the reports and addresses presented there. He mentioned that the knowledge of tick encephalitis has been enriched considerably during recent years by the work of a group headed by Ye. N. Levkovich. He added that this group has developed a method for the production of a dry vaccine, the use of which does not result in a reaction, and has devised a new method of laboratory diagnosis. Chumakov also referred to the fact that new data characterizing natural focuses of tick encephalitis have been presented at the conference by Zakorkina, Davydova, and others. He further said that the role of *Haemophysalis coheina* in the transmission of tick encephalitis must be investigated and established with greater precision. Chumakov emphasized the significance of the report made by A. I. Ivanenko, in which the results of 3 years of work on the use of tumors in laboratory diagnosis were described, and stated that a group of virologists at the city of Molotov conducts similar work under the direction of Prof. A. V. Pshenichnov.

After indicating that the Virological Laboratory of the Tomsk Institute of Vaccines must be strengthened, Chumakov recommended that the production of vaccines and serums for use against tick encephalitis be concentrated at this laboratory and that these vaccines and serums be supplied to the public health organs of Siberia and the Far East from there. Chumakov also noted the value of the reports given by A. N. Shapoval, I. V. Shubin, and other clinicians, who presented new data on the increased occurrence of indistinct forms of tick encephalitis in recent years, on investigations dealing with the nature of two-wave fevers, etc.

In Chumakov's opinion, the substantial contribution to the study of ticks made by V. M. Popov's report enables specialists in this field of parasitology to conduct a more effective fight against tick encephalitis on the basis of a better knowledge of the ecology of ticks. Chumakov urged those at the conference to expand work on the extermination of ticks and on the use of tick repellents for the protection of persons who are in danger of infection when in natural focuses of tick encephalitis.

On the basis of the reports and addresses heard, the conference passed a general resolution mobilizing the medical workers of the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East for intensive investigation of tick encephalitis and of diseases similar to it, and for the most rapid and extensive application in public health practice of the achievements of medical science already

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available in this field. A number of suggestions and demands made to the ministries of Health of the RSFSR and USSR was embodied in the resolution. Specifically, the resolution indicated the necessity of strengthening one of the institutes of vaccines and serums (Tomsk, Sverdlovsk, or Novosibirsk Institutes) to create a center for the study of tick encephalitis in the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East under the general direction of the Institute of Virology. This center would then also render organizational and methodological aid to public health organs of the eastern part of the RSFSR and supply them with vaccines and serums.

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